



Saving TEXAS HISTORY

The Texas General Land Office
Archives and Records Newsletter
Jerry Patterson, Commissioner
Vol. 11 Number 3 * Fall 2014

SAVE TEXAS ★ ★ ★
★★ GENERAL LAND OFFICE
HISTORY!
PRESERVATION AND EDUCATION PROGRAM

SYMPOSIUM

MAKING WAVES ON LAND AND SEA
Legends & Controversy in Texas History

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|------------------------|
| Saturday SEPTEMBER 20 | 8 AM TO 5 PM | WILLIAM B. TRAVIS BLDG |
|--------------------------|--------------|------------------------|

1701 N CONGRESS AVE | AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701

Hosted by Commissioner Jerry Patterson & the Texas General Land Office

5th Annual Save Texas History Symposium

*Making Waves on Land and Sea:
Legends and Controversy
in Texas History*

by James Harkins, Director of Public Services

Returning to Austin for its fifth year, the upcoming Save Texas History Symposium will investigate notable and notorious characters who color Texas history, looking at the drive and motivation that turned good people into bad, and solid citizens into Texas heroes.

The morning three-part plenary session will start with the man traditionally thought of as the worst “bad guy,” in Texas history, Mexican General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna. Dr. Bruce Winders, Alamo Curator and author

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COMMISSIONER PATTERSON: SAVING TEXAS HISTORY ONE MAP AT A TIME

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MAP SPOTLIGHT: AMERIQUE SEPTENTRIONALE, 1650

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THE LAND GRANTS MAP OF TEXAS

THE ARCHIVES AND RECORDS PROGRAM
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of several books, including *Sacrificed at the Alamo: Tragedy and Triumph in the Texas Revolution*, will discuss the man responsible for the slaughter of hundreds of Texans during the Texas Revolution, and take a deeper look at what drove Santa Anna.

Dr. Jerry Thompson, author of *Cortina: Defending the Mexican Name in Texas*, will discuss one of the most controversial figures in Texas history, Juan Cortina. Dr. Thompson will explain how Cortina was a man of immense nuance and contradictions, with many paradoxical views, and incredible survival instincts. He was an enigma in many ways. His historical record is fraught with examples of his fearless and enterprising spirit, yet he was often excessively violent, erratic, pompous, callous and plagued by an ego that knew no bounds.

The third morning plenary speaker, Dr. Thomas



Comanche chief Quanah Parker. Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress.



World War II hero and former Land Commissioner James Earl Rudder is one of the solid citizens who will be discussed.

M. Hatfield, author of *Rudder: From Leader to Legend*, will discuss one of the truly legendary Texans of the 20th century, General James Earl Rudder. Whether scaling the seemingly insurmountable cliffs of Pointe du Hoc with his advance assault troops during the Normandy invasion, restoring integrity to the Texas General Land Office, or overseeing transitions in an academic institution with hallowed traditions like Texas A&M during a time of contentious cultural change, Rudder forged a legacy of wartime gallantry and peacetime leadership that commands continuing respect.

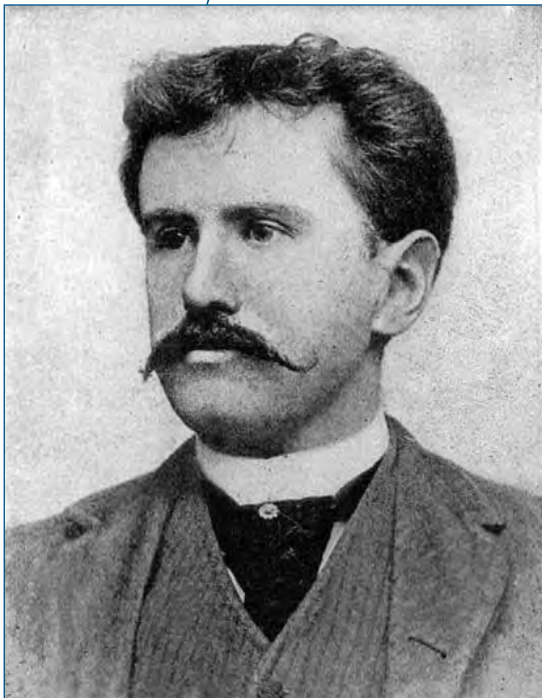
Making Waves

Symposium attendees will also have the opportunity to learn more about Texans at sea, as Dr. Jim Bruseth discusses archaeological work on La Salle's legendary ship, *La Belle*. Dr. Bruseth will use vivid photographs and engaging descriptions to share the excitement of discovery as he pieces together both the ship and its

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Former Land Office employee William Sydney Porter—O. Henry.

one's perspective—and how the location of the Republic of Texas archives would help determine the location of the Texas government. Additionally, Mike Miller of the Austin History Center will discuss the life of the most notable Land Office employee of the 19th century, and one of America's most famous short story writers, William Sydney Porter, better known as O. Henry.

tragic story. For those interested in history, archaeology or the quest for clues to the past, this presentation will tell a riveting tale of nautical adventure in the 17th century and reveal modern archaeology at its best. Bruseth will be joined by Jim Bevill, author of *The Paper Republic: The Struggle for Money, Credit and Independence in the Republic of Texas*, who will give a powerful presentation about the Texas Navy and the Republic of Texas' reliance on privateers to wreak havoc upon Mexican supply lines during the Texas Revolution. This is the story of the warships *Liberty*, *Invincible*, *Independence* and *Brutus*, as well as the roles played by McKinney & Williams, the Allen Brothers, captains Hawkins, Hurd, Thompson and Brown—and the significant contributions these aggressive men made on the high seas in the fight for Texas independence.

Land Office Links

Part of this session will be dedicated to one of the most epic stories in Land Office history: the Archives War and placing the capital in Austin instead of Houston. Jeffrey Stuart Kerr, author of *Seat of Empire: The Embattled Birth of Austin, Texas*, will discuss how the fate of the entire Republic of Texas government was under assault by a seemingly heroic set of Austin citizens—depending on



Former Texas governor Ma Ferguson. Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress.

Chaos at the Capitol

Dr. Carl Moneyhon, author of *Edmund J. Davis: Civil War General, Republican Leader, Reconstruction Governor*, will take on one of the weirdest stories in Texas politics, the E.J. Davis and Richard Coke gubernatorial controversy of 1873, which saw an election marked by irregularities, contested results and one man refusing to leave his office, forcing the other to climb ladders to meet with the Legislature. The 20th century also saw many irascible characters in the Texas governor's mansion, and Carol Wilson, author of *In the Governor's Shadow: The True Story of Ma & Pa Ferguson*, will cover two of the wildest occupants and politicians of their day—Ma and Pa Ferguson.

Texas Troublemakers

Attendees will also have an opportunity to learn about one of the most controversial and notable Native Americans of the 19th century, Quanah Parker, as well as legendary gunman John Wesley Hardin. Jim Haley, author of *The Buffalo War: The History of the Red River Indian Uprising of 1874*, as well as the newly released, *The Texas Supreme Court: A Narrative History, 1836-1986*, will discuss the contentious life and deeds of

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Quanah Parker, a major figure both in Comanche resistance to white settlement and in the tribe's adjustment to reservation life. Parker was a leader of the Quahada assault on Adobe Walls in 1874, a cattle rancher, an entrepreneur, and friend of American presidents—he was truly a man of two worlds. Chuck Parsons, author of *A Lawless Breed: John Wesley Hardin, Texas Reconstruction, and Violence in the Wild West*, will discuss John Wesley Hardin's life. According to Parsons, Hardin's name spread terror in much of Texas in the years following the Civil War, and it was reported that he killed men just to see them kick. Parsons will delve deep into the life of one of Texas' most wanted, examining what's true, what's legend and what's both.

Other symposium activities include a tour of the General Land Office's historic archives and map vault, pioneer land surveying of the State Capitol and a tour of the Texas State Cemetery, where many of the figures to be discussed at this symposium have been laid to rest.

To register for the 5th Annual Save Texas History Symposium, please go to savetexashistory.org. ✨

SYMPOSIUM AT A GLANCE

WHEN

Saturday, September 20, 8 am – 5 pm

WHERE

William B. Travis State Office Building
1701 N. Congress Ave.
Austin, Texas 78701

REGISTRATION COST

\$62
(includes lunch)

TO REGISTER, CONTACT JAMES HARKINS

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REGISTER ONLINE

savetexashistory.org

Thanks to our Symposium Sponsors



and Symposium Exhibitors

University of Texas Press, TCU Press, San Antonio Missions Community, "Quest for World Heritage Status," Portal to Texas History, Old Spanish Missions of San Antonio and Texas A&M University Press

Tell Us About Your Experience at the Land Office Archives

Have you had a good experience with the Texas General Land Office Archives? Maybe you attended a tour or presentation that took your breath away. Or maybe you learned something that you never knew about Texas history. Perhaps you discovered a document that shed some new light on one of your ancestors.

Please Friend Save Texas History on Facebook, and share your experience with us. If you are not on Facebook, please email archives@glo.texas.gov with details about your experience at the Land Office Archives.

The best story about someone's experience with the Archives will appear in the next edition of Saving Texas History and will win the author a free map! ✨

Commissioner Patterson: Saving Texas History One Map at a Time

Few can dispute that being Commissioner of the General Land Office is a job tailor-made for Jerry Patterson. A retired U.S. Marine, he's a tireless advocate for Texas veterans and an active steward of the Texas Gulf Coast. But as an actual student of history, Patterson is irresistably drawn to Save Texas History. A graduate of Texas A&M University with a degree in history, his love of the past guides his oversight of one of Texas' largest historical archive of maps and documents.

In November 2002, Patterson was elected as the 27th Texas Land Commissioner, taking on the job of overseeing more than 45,000 maps and 35.5 million documents that trace Texas history back to the Spanish empire.



Symposium attendees listen intently to Dr. Gene Smith.

John Borden, the first commissioner of the General Land Office, traveled on horseback gathering land records to define the new Republic of Texas and develop a system for distributing public lands to those who fought for Texas independence. The Land Office Archives continues to protect historical maps, original land grants, muster rolls and letters from Alamo and Goliad defenders.

But preserving these documents touched by patriots wasn't enough for Patterson. He wanted to share them with the world and made telling their story an integral goal of the Land Office.

Upon taking office, Commissioner Patterson deemed document preservation an agency priority. Under his leadership, the Land Office created the Save Texas History program in 2004.

The goals of Save Texas History are:

- Preserve and promote the historic documents of the General Land Office Archives
- Educate all Texans about our colorful past
- Serve as a teaching resource and provide tools for the study of Texas history
- Develop corporate and private partnerships

After Save Texas History was founded, new ways to increase funding for document conservation were sought, including



The Travis Letter arrives at the Alamo.

the establishment of public and private funding partnerships as well as increasing map reproduction sales. Working with the news media, Save Texas History promoted Land Office map reproduction sales to bolster conservation coffers. Sales of map reproductions at events such as the Texas Book Festival and the Texas State Historical Association Annual Meeting became a highly visible part of the outreach effort.

The Land Office archives are vital for oil and gas, title and genealogical research. But these historic records can also be used to tell the story of Texas. In 2008, efforts to honor the Land

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Office headquarter's namesake, Stephen F. Austin, took place in the form of a mural commissioning. "Spanish Land, Texas Home" is a permanent original artwork at the Stephen F. Austin Building, extensively researched to commemorate Austin and the Old Three Hundred, the first mass immigration movement to Texas from the United States.

Save Texas History also produces "This Week in Texas History," a weekly 60-second radio feature that tells the "lesser known" tales of Texas history. Long-time GLO surveyor Ben Thomson lends his Texas twang for these Texas history tidbits, created and extensively researched by GLO Communications Director Mark Dallas Loeffler. "This Week in Texas History" vignettes air in 19 markets including Houston, San Antonio, Austin and Dallas.



Patterson congratulates STH Essay Contest winner Bailey Grones.

In 2010, the first annual Save Texas History Symposium was held. Covering various topics including the Texas Revolution and the Alamo, the symposium offers an affordable day of history education for amateur history buffs and academics, with lectures, panel discussions, tours and hands-on activities. The symposium attracts top-notch speakers to present their expertise on thought provoking and sometimes controversial issues in Texas history.

Additional educational opportunities include partnerships with the Texas State Genealogical Society (TSGS) and Texas State Historical Association (TSHA). A 2014 spring genealogical research seminar—"Genealogypalooza"—co-hosted with TSGS was filled to capacity with novice and seasoned heritage researchers looking for new ways to investigate their ancestors.

Save Texas History has developed new educational efforts for younger Texans as well. For eight years, the program has partnered with the TSHA for a Texas seventh-grade history version of "Jeopardy," featuring Commissioner Patterson as Alex Trebek, reeling off questions on Texas History Day's "Quiz Show."

Save Texas History also gives classroom support to Texas teachers. Save Texas History lesson plans are easy to use, incorporate primary source documents located in the Land Office Archives and are available online for free. Another valuable tool available for Texas history teachers is the Save Texas History Texas Travels Essay Contest. The Essay Contest is an annual competition for fourth- and seventh-grade students that rewards creativity, research and writing skills. In four years, the contest has grown from 1,253 entries for seventh grade to more than 4,400 entries for both fourth and seventh grades.



Stephen F. Austin's Registro was restored in 2010.

In 2011, the Texas Legislature—recognizing the agency's expertise—entrusted the care of the Shrine of Texas Liberty itself, the Alamo, to the Land Office. This gave Save Texas History opportunities to extend its educational outreach. Save Texas History sponsored a photo contest on social media to mark the arrival of the famous Travis Letter at the Alamo and used its numerous contacts to encourage people to "See the Letter." Land Office staff also assisted with a special educator-only seminar and private viewing of the Travis Letter.

"Texas history is an epic story that still inspires," Patterson said. "I am honored to have helped protect and preserve so many documents touched by patriots here at the Land Office Archives and to share the knowledge they contain." ✨

MAP SPOTLIGHT

Amerique Septentrionale, 1650

Map #93684

by James Harkins, Director of Public Services

This map by Nicolas Sanson, the founder of the “French School” of cartography, is the oldest map housed at the Texas General Land Office. Sanson was geographer to French King Louis XIII, taught Louis XIV geography, and trained the renowned mapmaker Claude D’Lisle.

This is one of the most influential maps of the 17th century, and is the basis for most subsequent maps over the next 40 years. Most notable to modern viewers is that California is identified as an island (Californie Isle). This inaccurate depiction was first recorded in 1622, 81 years after California was first reported to be attached to the mainland by explorers. Stranger still, the error continued to appear on maps long after navigators had tried to sail entirely around it and failed. In Europe, it wasn’t until King Ferdinand VII of Spain issued a royal decree saying, “California is not an Island” that this idea disappeared. However, this cartographic mistake appeared as late as 1865 on a Japanese map. Also of note is the mythical geography represented on this map, including “Conibas,” the region to the northwest of Californie Isle, which was purported to be between North America and Asia, as well as “Cibola” and “Quivira,” better known today as two of the Seven Cities of Gold, as well as the complete lack of knowledge where western Canada should be.



This Nicolas Sanson map is the oldest in the Land Office collection.

At the time of this map’s creation, there was very little known about the area that would become Texas. The dearth of information is evident from the inaccurate mountain formation that cuts across Texas from west to east. This geologic feature, which was thought to represent the Appalachian Mountains, makes a sharp northward turn just to the west of what appears to be present-day Galveston Bay (Bay of Espiritu Santo). This coastal inlet also appears to depict the mouth of the Mississippi River based on the extensive river system connected.

Mexico, Texas und Californien, 1855

Map #93651

This map was made by geographer Heinrich Kiepert, recognized as one of the most important scholarly cartographers of the second half of the 19th century. His maps are invariably clear and easy to read and as accurate as the scholarship of the day permitted.

This map shows Texas and the rest of the Southwestern United States, as well as Mexico and Central America. First issued in 1847, this 1855 edition provides an excellent study of the evolution of the West. It also shows Deseret, a provisional state of the United States proposed in 1849 by settlers from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Utah).



Heinrich Kiepert's 1855 map.

Texas is one of the main features of this map, intended to lure German emigrants through the Adelsverein, the Society for the Protection of German Immigrants, to Texas. Issued for the German market, this map provided many immigrants with the first look at his or her new country. In the center of Texas is the “Deutsche Colonie,” in the area regularly referred to as the Fisher-Miller Colony.

Both of these maps are part of the permanent archival collection at the General Land Office. Color, full-size copies can be purchased for only \$20 online at glo.texas.gov. ✱

Captain Frank A. Hamer's Attempted Mineral Claim

by Kevin Klaus, Research Room Team Leader

Among the many Land Grant files that make up the archival collection of the Texas General Land Office are thousands of Mineral Files that convey information about mineral production on state-owned lands over the past century. Among these many nondescript files is Mineral Application file #38244, a file connected with one of the most thrilling and dangerous manhunts in American history. The man who filed this application to lease a portion of land in Liberty County was the renowned lawman, Captain Frank A. Hamer.

Just over a decade after the legendary confrontation and death of the famed outlaws Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow on May 23, 1934, Capt. Hamer was doing something more pedestrian at his home on Riverside Drive in Austin. On September 5, 1945, Hamer made his application to speculate for oil in the sandy soil of East Texas.



The posse that went after Bonnie and Clyde. Hamer is on the front left. Photo courtesy of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame Museum.

The “Application to Lease” was filed with the Texas General Land Office on September 10, 1945. This document is a simple two-page form indicating Hamer’s intent to survey and lease what he believed was a vacancy, or unknown unsurveyed land, in Liberty County. Hamer’s signature is prominent on the first page. The files cover a span of 16 months from when Mr. Hamer made his application, to the final judgment and disposition. Just two days after Hamer made his application to survey a possible vacancy, R.G. Partlow, County Surveyor of Liberty County, replied to Hamer that his application had been received and recorded. Surveying the tract of land would begin soon thereafter on 139 acres that were believed to be vacant and unappropriated land. Eventually, T.C. Coats, a Licensed State Land Surveyor and timber estimator, was recommended to Hamer for the job of surveying this tract.

As required by law, a “Notice of Intention to Survey” was distributed to 81 individuals who may have had a vested interest in the possible vacancy. The actual survey work began on November 8, 1945. After the various reports and sketches had been filed with the Land Office, a public hearing on the validity of this vacancy was held on March 12, 1946 with Commissioner Bascom Giles presiding.

Various witnesses were called upon, but it was T.C. Coats who provided the detailed testimony of the survey he performed in the northern part of Liberty County. With the hearing over, it wasn’t until January 7 the following year that Commissioner Giles sent out the “Notice of Rejection” to all interested parties. After careful review by the Land Office, it was concluded that “the area described is not unsurveyed School Land. The file wrapper containing the papers relative to Mr. Hamer’s application has therefore been endorsed ‘Rejected-No Vacancy.’”

It’s interesting to note that in December 1933, R.G. Partlow filed a similar vacancy application in the same vicinity as the Hamer application. This earlier application by Partlow was later upheld by the Office of the State Attorney General.

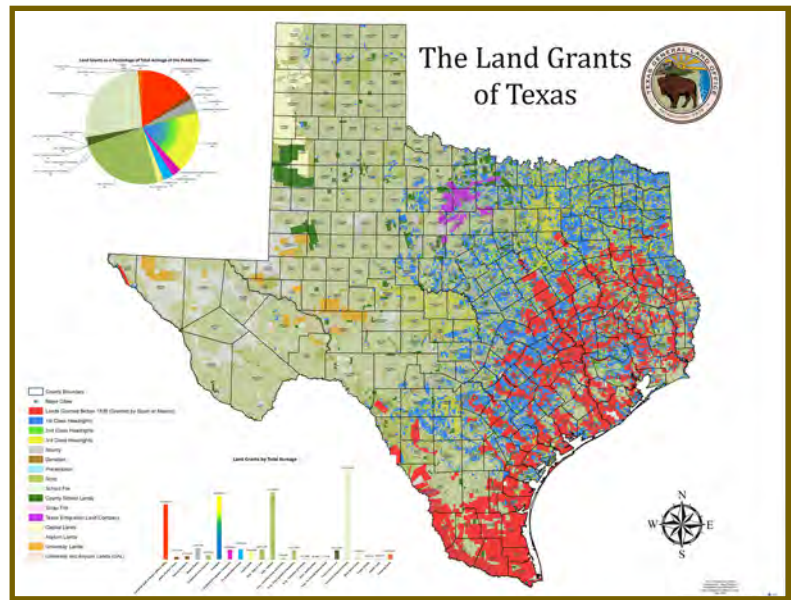
After that fateful day in May 1934 when Hamer stopped Bonnie and Clyde, he worked several jobs providing security for major oil companies, sometimes working as a strike breaker. He returned briefly to Ranger duty working as special security for Governor Coke Stevenson for the election in 1948. He officially retired from public service in 1949, and continued to live for the remainder of his life in the little home on Riverside Drive in Austin until his death in 1958. ✨

The Land Grants Map of Texas, Map #93698

by Patrick Walsh, GLO Researcher

The historical patterns of land disposition in Texas under Spain, Mexico, the Republic and statehood can be intuited through archival documents, but until now, there hasn't been a comprehensive graphical representation depicting where the various types of land grants were surveyed for the entire state.

The creation of map #93698, the Land Grants Map of Texas, represents a collaborative project between the Archives and Records Program and the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Division of the General Land Office to better reflect historical information.



By marrying archival information with modern technology, the General Land Office is able to use geographical analysis on historical data, in this case by illustrating every land grant in Texas, color coded by land-grant type. "This is an effort to represent the Land Grants Database geographically in a GIS System," said Sterling Harris, the GLO GIS systems manager. "It shows how the state evolved from the Spanish and Mexican Lands Grant period to the developing period of the Republic, when land was being surveyed into blocks, sections and townships."

The technical process of creating this map, Harris said, involved joining the Original Texas Land Survey GIS data layer with the Land Grants Database attribute data. "From this effort, the GIS map was symbolized using these attributes to represent the various types of land grants covering the entire state of Texas," Harris added. Technology such as GIS and its use in conjunction with historical materials, Harris concludes, "serve as critical tools in the study and protection of our state's valued resources."

This map, a practical resource for educators, researchers or anyone interested in Texas history, will provide a better understanding of the long, remarkable story of the public lands of Texas, and how they were distributed.

The Land Grants Map of Texas, map #93698 in the GLO's collection, is available for viewing and purchase for \$20 online at <http://www.glo.texas.gov/cf/ArcMaps/ArcMapsLookup.cfm>. *

A Word from the Public

Thank you for getting me excited about teaching TX history in June! The workshop was well presented and I appreciate your insight on how teachers think. The best Monday I have had in a great while. Also a big thank you in accepting my sister as one of us. She thoroughly enjoyed the day and is excited about doing research into our family background. Again thank you for all the resources you gave us to work with in the classroom and for a very enjoyable day at the Land Office.

—Roberta Lewis

Tejano Handbook of History Writers Workshop Held

by James Harkins, Director of Public Services

The Handbook of Tejano History Project was announced earlier this year at the Texas State Historical Association (TSHA) Annual Conference in San Antonio. Its goal is to increase the number of Tejano and Mexican American entries in the *Handbook of Texas* History Online.

Dr. Emilio Zamora, professor of history at the University of Texas at Austin, and Dr. Andrés Tijerina, professor of history at Austin Community College, are co-directing this worthwhile project, and the Texas General Land Office is supporting their efforts to remember our Tejano past as part of the complete history of Texas.



Tejano Handbook Writers Workshop attendees. Phot by Roberto R. Calderón, DSC_0302.

“We are excited about enhancing the already excellent *Handbook of Texas* with new articles on Tejano history,” said Drs. Zamora and Tijerina. “The Handbook of Tejano History Project will contribute greater breadth and depth to the *Handbook* by capitalizing on the current historical moment of increased interest and intellectual production on Mexican American history in Texas. The Texas General Land Office lent an invaluable initiative to the contributions by hosting the workshop for a group of leading Texas historians.”

As many researchers have learned through the years, the General Land Office Archives and Records is home to the Spanish Collection, which dates back to the year 1720. Noted bibliographer Henry Putney Beers described the GLO Spanish Collection: “These records constitute the most valuable collection of original documents for the history of the settlement of Texas during the period 1821-1835, and one of the largest collections for the history of Texas.” Additionally, the GLO is home to thousands of Republic and state records that deal with Tejanos during and after the Texas Revolution, as well as throughout the entire 19th century. Because of this wealth of information, and the importance of remembering the contributions of Tejanos and Mexican Americans to our state’s history, the GLO hosted the first Writers Workshop for the Handbook of Tejano History Project in June.

This was a truly historic day for Tejano history. Attendees included notable historians like Dr. Frank de la Teja, Dr. Gene Preuss, and Dr. Randolph “Mike” Campbell, as well as more than 50 other highly credentialed Tejano historians from across the state. Additionally, former Tejano state Senator Gonzalo Barrientos was present, as was former Austin Mayor Gus Garcia, the first Hispanic mayor of Austin.

The workshop included information on formatting and instructions for submitting articles, as well as deadlines, and messages about the importance of the work that the Tejano History Handbook project represents.

More than 25 years have passed since the TSHA made an initial effort to increase the number of Handbook articles on Tejanos and Mexican Americans. Since then, researchers have made significant progress in Mexican American history and have helped to expand public and professional interest in the field. The Handbook of Tejano History Project intends to capitalize on this growth and interest by generating new entries and producing an authoritative, encyclopedic resource on Tejano history that will remain a standard source of information for decades.

The Handbook of Tejano History Project has been made possible due to generous support from Tejano Monument, Inc., the Department of History at the University of Texas at Austin, and the Texas State Historical Association. For more information on this worthwhile project, please visit <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/tejano>. ✨

Spanish Collection Digitization is Nearly Complete

At the Tejano Handbook Writer's Workshop in June, the General Land Office unveiled the most recent updates to the digitization efforts of the Spanish Collection. This phase of the digitization process included the documents found in the *Catalogue of the Spanish Collection*, Part II, which focuses on the administrative aspects of the Spanish and Mexican land granting process. These documents are crucial to the understanding of how local, state and national government officials worked with empresarios to introduce foreign settlers into Texas. Examples of the types of documents found in the *Catalogue*, Part II, include records of Texas missions, contracts established between Mexican officials and the empresarios to settle families in Texas, correspondence between empresarios and the authorities at Béxar and Saltillo, decrees, and proceedings related to the land grant system and the settlement of Texas.

Part of the digitization process included a calendar of the documents in the *Catalogue*, Part II. A calendar is a specific kind of finding aid that chronologically lists the documents in a specific collection. The calendar can be found as a PDF on our Research at the Archives page or by clicking on this link: <http://bit.ly/1tXxYmk>. The items in the calendar can be searched either by date or by doing a word search on the PDF. The calendar also includes a "how to" guide that will help users locate the documents within the Land Grant Database. ✱

Do you "like" Texas history?

Love Texas history? Then "like" the new Save Texas History Facebook page! Get the latest news about the Texas General Land Office conservation and education program, including upcoming events, contests, media and Texas history trivia. Watch for opportunities to win maps and other Save Texas History collectibles. Give STH a thumbs up to be entered in STH drawings. Keep up with your Save Texas History friends today! ✱

SOLDIER, AGGIE, TEXAN

MAY 1910 AND A HEROIC AGGIE IS BORN.

This week in Texas History, brought to you by this station and the Save Texas History program of the General Land Office.



May 6, 1910. Eden. James Earl Rudder had a humble start. A high school football star before going to Texas A&M, he became an army officer.

Upon graduation, he married, and took a job as a softball coach. Then the war came. On D-Day, Rudder's Texas Rangers scaled the Normandy cliffs under heavy fire and secured victory. Wounded twice, he nearly died.

A military hero back home, Rudder was asked to step in as land commissioner in the wake of the Veterans Land Board scandal. Rudder cleaned house and restored the program. President of A&M in 1965, Rudder took the school co-ed and made it into a world-class university. In '67, LBJ awarded Rudder the Distinguished Service Medal.

James Earl Rudder was born 104 years ago,
This Week in Texas History.

HEAR THIS AT THISWEEKINTEXASHISTORY.ORG